



## MEDICATION PACKING APPARATUS

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### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention relates to a medicine packing apparatus, and particularly to a medicine packing apparatus that can properly distribute and transfer medicine package belts based on the configuration of the medicine package belt.

[0002] Conventionally, there has been a medicine packing apparatus that feeds medicine in accordance with prescription data, and then separates and packs the medicine by one dose to form a series of medicine doses packaged in a belt. There have also been well known a reel apparatus for reeling the formed medicine package belt and a binding apparatus for binding the reeled medicine package belts.

[0003] Recently, different kinds of medicine package belts according to the use thereof have been required. For example, in the case of dosage for an outpatient, it has been desired to provide long medicine package belts in which medicine doses are packed in series in order of dose. On the other hand, in the case of dosage for an inpatient, short medicine package belts cut by one-day dosage (for example, 3 packages of medicine for taking after breakfast, lunch and supper) have been provided. There are also blank package belts in each of which no medicine is packed. The long and short medicine package belts are bound by separate binding apparatuses respectively, while the blank package belts are discarded.

[0004] However, the conventional apparatuses have no construction for distributing the medicine package belts based on the configuration thereof. Therefore, the aforementioned reel apparatus and the binding apparatus have been separately positioned from the medicine packing apparatus so that the long medicine package belts are reeled and bound only when providing them to the outpatients. When providing the